

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****AUDITS AND INVESTIGATIONS**

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January 13, 2010

Mr. Van Maddox  
Auditor  
Sierra County  
P.O. Box 425  
Downieville, CA 95936

Re: Sierra County Transportation Department  
Audit of Indirect Cost Rate Proposal for FY 2008/2009  
File Number: P1590-0069

Dear Mr. Maddox:

We have audited the Sierra County Transportation Department's (Sierra DOT) Indirect Cost Rate Proposal (ICRP) for the fiscal year (FY) ended June 30, 2009, to determine whether the ICRP is presented in accordance with 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 225 (formerly Office of Management and Budget Circular A-87) and the California Department of Transportation's (Department) Local Programs Procedures (LPP) 04-10. Sierra DOT management is responsible for the fair presentation of the ICRP. Sierra DOT proposed an indirect cost rate of 66.57 percent of total direct salaries and wages plus fringe benefits.

Our audit was conducted in accordance with the Standards for Performance Audits set forth in the *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States of America. The audit was less in scope than an audit performed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the financial statements of Sierra DOT. Therefore, we did not audit and are not expressing an opinion on the Sierra DOT's financial statements.

The standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the data and records reviewed are free of material misstatement, as well as material noncompliance with fiscal provisions relative to the ICRP. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the data and records reviewed. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by Sierra DOT, as well as evaluating the overall presentation.

The accompanying ICRP was prepared on a basis of accounting practices prescribed in the 2 CFR Part 225 and the Department's LPP 04-10, and is not intended to present the results of operations of Sierra DOT in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

The scope of the audit was limited to select financial and compliance activities. The audit consisted of a recalculation of the ICRP, a review of Sierra DOT's single audit report for the FY ended June 30, 2008, inquiries of Sierra DOT personnel, reliance placed on the single audit report for the FY ended June 30, 2008, and prior audit field work performed by the Department in August 2002. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our conclusion.

Because of inherent limitations in any financial management system, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected. Also, projections of any evaluation of the financial management system to future periods are subject to the risk that the financial management system may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies and procedures may deteriorate.

## **AUDIT RESULTS**

Based on audit work performed, Sierra DOT's ICRP for the FY ended June 30, 2009 is presented in accordance with 2 CFR Part 225 and LPP 04-10. The approved indirect cost rate is 66.57 percent of total direct salaries and wages, plus fringe benefits. The approval is based on the understanding that a carry forward provision applies and no adjustment will be made to previously approved rates.

This report is intended solely for the information of Sierra DOT, Department Management, the California Transportation Commission and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). However, this report is a matter of public record and will be included on the "Reporting Transparency in Government" website.

Please retain the approved ICRP for your files. Copies were sent to the Department's District 3, the Department's Division of Accounting and the FHWA. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Moreno, Auditor at (916) 323-7885 or Cliff Vose, Audit Manager, at (916) 323-7917.

 MARYANN CAMPBELL-SMITH  
Chief, External Audits

Attachments

- c: Brenda Bryant, Director, Financial Services, Federal Highway Administration  
Sue Kiser, Director, Planning and Air Quality, Federal Highway Administration  
James Ogbonna, Chief, Rural Transit and Intercity Bus Branch, Division of Mass  
Transportation  
David Saia, Senior Transportation Engineer, Policy Development and Quality  
Assurance, Division of Local Assistance  
Jenny N. Tran, Associate Account Analyst, Local Program Accounting Branch,  
Local Assistance  
Will Schilling, Local Assistance Engineer, District 3  
P1590-0069

County Auditor  
P.O. Box 425  
Downieville, California 95936  
530-289-3273



## Sierra County Transportation Department Indirect Cost Plan

Van A. Maddox  
Auditor/Risk Manager

Mark W. Stevenson  
Senior Auditor/Controller

The indirect cost rate contained herein is for use on grants, contracts and other agreements with the Federal Government and California Department of Transportation (Department), subject to the conditions in Section II. This plan was prepared by the County and approved by the Department.

### SECTION 1: Rates

| <u>Rate Type</u>         | <u>Effective Period</u> | <u>Rate*</u> | <u>Applicable To</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Fixed with carry forward | 7/01/08 to 6/30/09      | 66.57%       | All Programs         |

\* Base: Total Direct Salaries and Wages plus fringe benefits

### SECTION II: General Provisions

#### **A. Limitations:**

The rates in this Agreement are subject to any statutory or administrative limitations and apply to a given grant, contract, or other agreement only to the extent that funds are available. Acceptance of the rates is subject to the following conditions: (1) Only costs incurred by the organization were included in its indirect cost pool as finally accepted; such costs are legal obligations of the organization and are allowable under the governing cost principles; (2) The same costs that have been treated as indirect costs are not claimed as direct costs; (3) Similar types of costs have been accorded consistent accounting treatment; and (4) The information provided by the organization which was used to establish the rates is not later found to be materially incomplete or inaccurate by the Federal Government or the Department. In such situations the rate(s) would be subject to renegotiation at the discretion of the Federal Government or the Department; (5) Prior actual costs used in the calculation of the approved rate are contained in the grantee's Single Audit, which was prepared in accordance with OMB Circular A-133. If a Single Audit is not required to be performed, then audited financial statements should be used to support the prior actual costs; and, (6) This rate is based on an estimate of the costs to be incurred during the period.

#### **B. Accounting Changes:**

This Agreement is based on the accounting system purported by the organization to be in effect during the Agreement period. Changes to the method of accounting for costs, which affect the amount of reimbursement resulting from the use of this Agreement, require prior approval of the authorized representative of the cognizant agency. Such changes include, but are not limited to, changes in the charging of a particular type of cost from indirect to direct. Failure to obtain approval may result in cost disallowances.

**C. Fixed Rate with Carry Forward:**

The fixed rate used in this Agreement is based on an estimate of the costs for the period covered by the rate. When the actual costs for this period are determined—either by the grantee's Single Audit or if a Single Audit is not required, then by the grantee's audited financial statements—any differences between the application of the fixed rate and actual costs will result in an over or under recovery of costs. The over or under recovery will be carried forward, as an adjustment to the calculation of the indirect cost rate, to the second fiscal year subsequent to the fiscal year covered by this plan.

**D. Audit Adjustments:**

Immaterial adjustments resulting from the audit of information contained in this plan shall be compensated for in the subsequent indirect cost plan approved after the date of the audit adjustment. Material audit adjustments will require reimbursement from the grantee.

**E. Use by Other Federal Agencies:**

Authority to approve this agreement by the Department has been delegated by the Federal Highway Administration, California Division. The purpose of this approval is to permit subject local government to bill indirect costs to Title 23 funded projects administered by the Federal Department of Transportation (DOT). This approval does not apply to any grants, contracts, projects, or programs for which DOT is not the cognizant Federal agency.

The approval will also be used by the Department in State-only funded projects.

**F. Other:**

If any Federal contract, grant, or other agreement is reimbursing indirect costs by a means other than the approved rate(s) in this Agreement, the organization should (1) credit such costs to the affected programs, and (2) apply the approved rate(s) to the appropriate base to identify the proper amount of indirect costs allocable to these programs.

**G. Rate of Calculation:**

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| FY 2008/09 Estimated Indirect Costs                                 | \$825,492   |
| Carry Forward from FY 2006/07                                       | \$327,457   |
| Estimated FY 2008/09 Indirect Costs                                 | \$1,152,949 |
| FY 2008/09 Estimated Direct Salaries and Wages plus Fringe Benefits | \$1,731,917 |
| FY 2008/09 Indirect Cost Rate                                       | 66.57%      |

**CERTIFICATION OF INDIRECT COSTS**

This is to certify that I have reviewed the indirect cost rate proposal submitted herewith and to the best of my knowledge and belief:

- (1) All costs included in this proposal to establish billing or final indirect cost rates for fiscal year 2008/09 (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009) are allowable in accordance with the requirements of the Federal and State award(s) to which they apply and OMB Circular A-87, "Cost Principles for

State, Local and Indian Tribal Governments." Unallowable costs have been adjusted for in allocating costs as indicated in the cost allocation plan.

- (2) All costs included in this proposal are properly allocable to Federal and State awards on the basis of a beneficial or causal relationship between the expenses incurred and the agreements to which they are allocated in accordance with applicable requirements. Further, the same costs that have been treated as indirect costs have not been claimed as direct costs. Similar types of costs have been accounted for consistently and the Federal Government and the Department will be notified of any accounting changes that would affect the fixed rate.

I declare that the foregoing is true and correct.

Governmental Unit: Sierra County

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed, Approved and Submitted by:

Prepared by:

Name of Official: Tim Beals

Name of Official: Van Maddox

Title: Transportation Director

Title: Sierra County Auditor

Date of Execution: 12-5-08

Telephone No.: 530-289-3273

#### INDIRECT COST RATE APPROVAL

The Department has reviewed this indirect cost plan and hereby approves the plan.

Signature

Signature

Reviewed and Approved by:

Reviewed and Approved by:

Amada Maengaa

Lisa Moreau

Name of Audit Manager

Name of Auditor

Title: Sr. Mgmt Auditor

Title: Auditor

Date: 1/13/2010

Date: 1/12/2010

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